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Illinois Infantry 50th regt., 1861-1865

SOUVENIER

SOLDIERS AND SAILORS
OF ALL WARS

REUNION

BANQUET AND CAMPFIRE

OCTOBER 4-5, 1922

HOTEL QUINCY

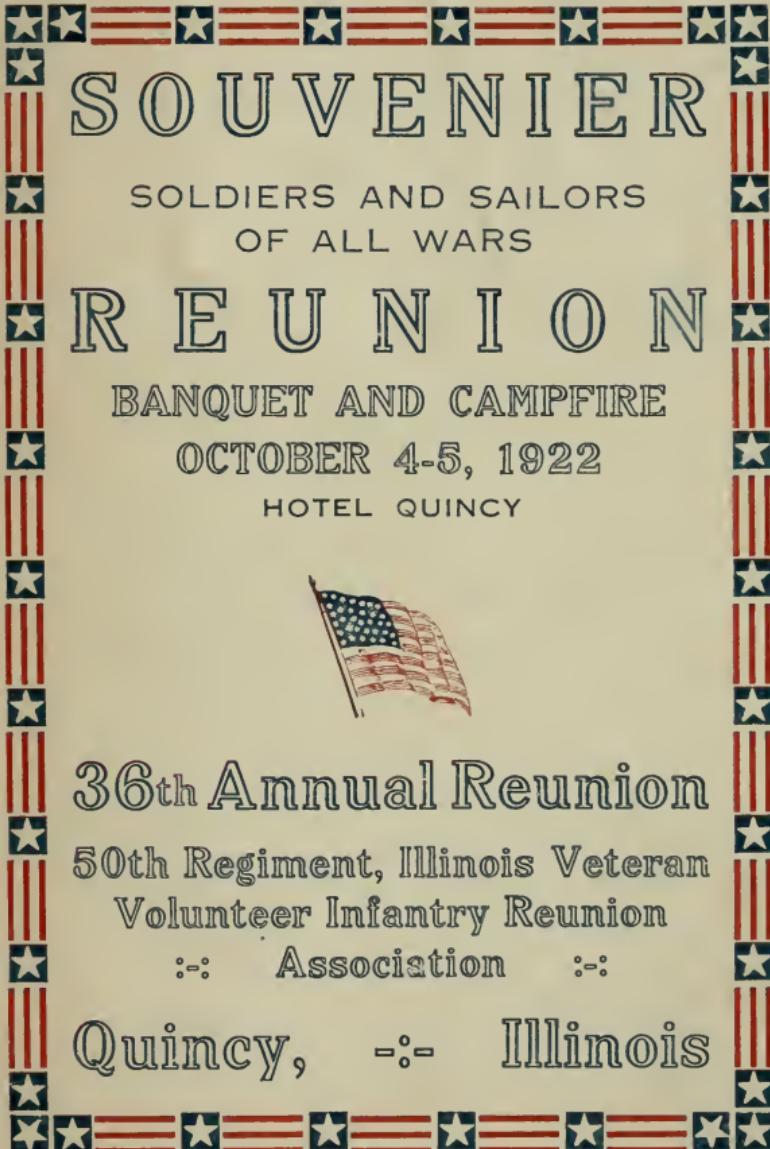


36th Annual Reunion

50th Regiment, Illinois Veteran
Volunteer Infantry Reunion

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Quincy, -:- Illinois

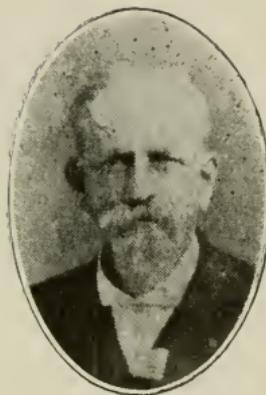


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DEDICATED
to the
COMRADES OF THE 4th DIVISION OF THE
15th ARMY CORPS, U. S. A.
CIVIL WAR

~~EMT~~
Published:

OCT 17 1922



C. F. HUBERT
"Our Charlie"

INTRODUCTION

It may be interesting to learn the origin of our Prize Drill Banner, and the extracts from accompanying correspondences of Comrade L. H. Everts, 2nd Lieutenant, Co. D., 52nd Ill. Infantry, will be explanatory.

Comrade Everts will be remembered as Assistant Adjutant Gen. of the 4th Div., 15th Army Corps. This division was made up of 15 regiments.

—Author.

There was a brigade of cavalry, 1st Alabama, 7th Kansas (Jayhawkers), a detachment of the 10th Missouri, the 15th Illinois, and one company of the 5th Ohio cavalry; four batteries of the 1st Missouri artillery, also Stewart's Battery that served in the Second Division, 16th A. C.

We have inserted illustrations of the Division Badges, showing actual size. Also illustrations of our Regimental Association Badge, made up of the badges of the two divisions in which we served.



WILLIAM HANNA
Brevet Brigadier General of Volunteers
from March, 1865.



L. H. EVERTS
Brevet Major, U. S. Army, from
March, 1865.



Philadelphia, Dec. 5, 1921.

Mr. Chas. Hubert,
Fowler, Ill.

Dear Comrade:

I am informed that you published a history of the 50th Ill. Vols. Col. Hanna of that Regiment was one of my warmest friends during the service, and I am very anxious to obtain some information concerning him. If you were a member of the 50th Ill. Vols. serving to its final muster out, then you were in the "Grand Review" at Washington, and helped win that "prize flag" at the military tournament, Louisville. That prize drill was my own conception. I was solely responsible for its success or failure, and that it WAS a success belongs to the honor and glory of your gallant Regiment. I was A. A. G. of the 4th Div. 15th A. C. under Corse, formerly 2nd Div. 16th A. C. under Sweeny. The performance of the 50th Ill. on that occasion will never be forgotten, and there was not a Regiment in Sherman's Army that was its su-

perior in drill and military bearing. I am now 86 years of age; am a life member of the "Society of the Army of Tenn." and a comrade of Post 2, G. A. R. of this city. * * * *

Philadelphia, Dec. 15, 1921.

I am in receipt of your kind letter of the 12th inst. and accompanying literature, pertaining to the 50th Ill. Vol. Infy.**** They awakened memories that moistened these aged eyes of mine as I learned so much about my noble friend of Civil War days, your valiant Colonel Hanna. A few years ago, being compelled to abandon business, I devoted my time to personal memoirs of the Civil war, in reality an autobiography. It has been prepared with great care and its accuracy facilitated through my chief clerk, whose diary recorded daily events and many important conversations between the general and myself. These memoirs contain about 60,000 words, and the principal episodes include the following: Quincy reception given my regiment, the 52d Ill. Vols. Jan. 1862. Many of your elderly citizens must remember the splendid reception given us when we arrived at 3 o'clock one cold morning after an all night march from Missouri through the snow, crossing the Mississippi on the ice. We were certainly a sorry looking body of soldiers as we staggered along the streets of that Illinois city. But its citizens took us in, fed and warmed us. In the evening we all united in a glorious meeting at Kendall's hall, S. W. Cor. 6th and Maine, listening to speeches and musical entertainments amid flags and enthusiasm. That day and night in Quincy was treasured as a pleasant memory by every soldier of the 52d. These memoirs included other episodes such as Fort Henry, Donelson, Shiloh, siege of Corinth,

Lagrange and Colliersville, Tenn., Pulaski and execution of Sam Davis; "Snake Creek Gap," Resaca and that terrible night of the cyclone, (do you remember it?). Lays Ferry, Rome Cross Roads, Dallas, Kennesaw, Atlanta, Jonesboro, Rome, Allatoona, Savanah; one fearful night in the "Great Salkehachie Swamp," where myself and horse plunged into the swoilen Duck Creek, and I passed the night with the boys in the slimy swamp, among the bogs and fogs; burning of Columbia, where I spent the night with my headquarters guard, doing what we could for the frenzied citizens; Cheraw, S. C., were 40 kegs of powder exploded, in a deep ravine, blowing houses asunder, shaking the very foundations of the little city and causing one of our Brigades, camped near, to come quickly to attention; Bentonville, Goldsboro, Raleigh, Lee's Surrender; Lincoln's assassination and how it affected our Division, composed mostly of Illinois soldiers; the Grand Review; Division "dress parade" in Washington, (suburbs) and the grand finale—Military Tournament and "Prize Drill," at Louisville. * * * * *

Philadelphia, Dec. 20, 1921.

I had no part in selecting the judges of the "prize drill." The day before the contest, Gen. Corse informed me that he had invited Generals Logan, Hazen and a West Point Colonel to act as judges of the drill, and I found these three officers in the judges' stand when I delivered the flag and treated them as the authorized judges of the contest throughout the entire proceedings. * * * * Logan commanded the Army of the Tenn., and Hazen the 15th A. C. at that time. * * * There was no hesitation on the part of the judges in rendering their deci-

sion; the 50 Ill. Vols. won from the moment they "presented arms" in front of the judges' stand. I attach to this two of several testimonials received during the service; that of your splendid Colonel and my dear friend, I prize beyond expression. The testimonial from the field officers of the division was the surprise of my life, and your Col. Hanna was, no doubt, responsible for the highly prized honor.

* * * I should consider it an honor to be associated with Col. Hanna in your contemplated publication. * * *

The Regiments composing the 2nd Div. of the 16th A. C., under Gen. Dodge, were as follows:

1st Brigade; 2nd and 7th Iowa; 52nd Ill. and 66th Indiana.

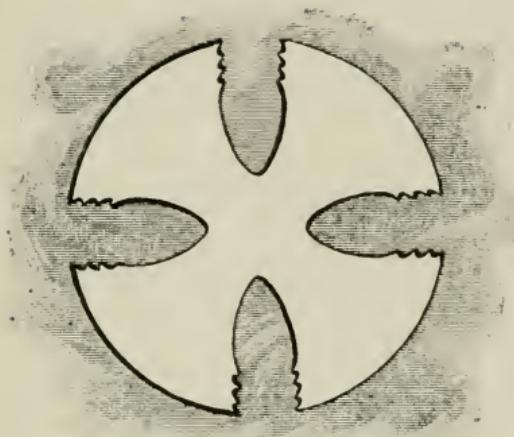
2nd Brigade: 9th, 12th and 66th Ill. and 81st Ohio.

3d Brigade: 7th, 50th and 57th Ill. and 39th Iowa and Battery H, First Missouri light artillery. Battery H was discharged at Benton Barracks, June 16, 1865.

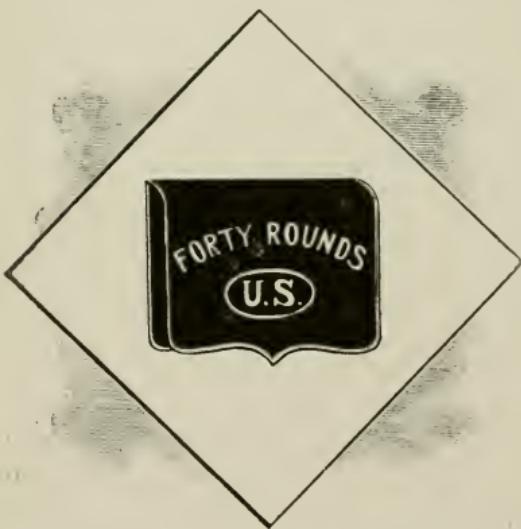
When our division was transferred to the 15th A. C., under Logan, the following Regiments were added: 48th and 59th Indiana; 18th Wis. and 63d Ill., the 9th Ill., being detached, leaving us 15 regiments under Corse, for the Savannah and Washington campaigns. I trust you have fully recovered your health and that your life may be spared, at least until 1926, when we may hope to meet in this city of brotherly love.

Fraternally yours,

L. H. Everts.



*Badge of the Sixteenth Army Corps
Made according to specifications from War Department*



Badge of the Fifteenth Army Corps

*From the Final Official Report of
Major General John M. Corse*

After Atlanta Campaign, "March to the Sea" and through the Carolinas. The 4th Division at this time numbered fifteen Regiments. The full report contained about 4000 words, and included but the one personal reference as given.

Headquarters, 4th Div. 15th Army Corps
Near Goldsboro, N. C., March 30th 1865.

Extract * * * *

"To the several members of my Staff I extend my warmest thanks for their cordial aid throughout the campaign. It matters little whether in the swamp or on the battle field, contending with the elements or an enemy, they manifested such zeal, energy, and willingness of spirit in each capacity, by night or by day, that I am happy to recommend them to the especial notice of the General Commanding, as worthy of his highest praise: Captain L. H. Everts, Assistant Adjutant General, in addition to the arduous duties of his office, rendered services so valuable as to induce me to recommend him to your favorable consideration for promotion in his department."

Your obedient servant,
(Signed) JOHN M. CORSE,
Brevet Major General.

COL. MAX WOODHULL,
Asst. Adjutant Gen'l,
15th Army Corps.

Headquarters 50th Ill. Inf'try Vols.

Near Washington City, D. C., May 31, 1865

Captain L. H. Everts,

Asst. Adj't Gen'l 4th Div. 15th A. C.

Sir:

To assure you of the high regard in which your services as Asst. Adj't Gen'l of the 4th Div. 15th Army Corps are held; I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a petition which has this day been forwarded to the Adjutant General of the Army, by the Field Officers of said Division, requesting your appointment as Asst. Adj't Gen'l with the rank of Major.

I am, Captain, with respect,

Your most obedient servant,

(Signed) WILLIAM HANNA, Lieut. Col.

Commanding Regiment

Voluntary testimonial from the Field Officers,
4th Div. 15th Army Corps.

Camp of the 4th Div. 15th Army Corps.

Near Washington City, D. C., May 31, 1865
To Adjutant General U. S. Army, Washington
City.

Sir:

We, the undersigned, Field Officers of the 4th Div., 15th Army Corps, hereby most respectfully request that Captain L. H. Everts, Asst. Adj't Gen'l of Volunteers, be appointed Asst. Adj't Gen'l of Volunteers, with the rank of Major. We can each and all of us testify to the faithful and efficient manner in which Captain Everts has discharged the arduous and responsible duties of Asst. Adj't Gen'l, the majority of us having been officially associated with him since the summer of 1862.

We are, Gen'l, with great respect, your obedient servants:

E. W. Rice, Brig. Gen'l, Commanding 1st Brigade.
Wm. T. Clark, Brig. Gen'l, Commanding 2nd Brigade.
R. Rowett, Brevet Brig. Gen'l, Commanding 3rd Brigade.
Hector Perrin, Lieut. Col. 7th Ill. Infantry Vols.
Edward S. Johnson, Major, 7th Ill. Infantry Vols.
Wm. L. Leonard, Surgeon, 7th Ill. Infantry Vols.
J. M. Griffith, Lieut. Col. 39th Iowa Infantry Vols.
G. N. Elliott, Major, 39th Iowa Infantry Vols.
J. N. Woods, Surgeon, 39th Iowa Infantry Vols.
William Hanna, Lieut. Col., 50th Ill. Infantry Vols.
H. L. Burnham, Major, 50th Ill. Infantry Vols.
M. Bigger, Chaplain, 50th Ill. Infantry.
J. A. Williams, Surgeon, 50th Ill. Infantry.
F. A. Battey, Major, 57th Ill. Infntry Vols.
W. R. Marsh, Surgeon in Chief of Division.
J. R. Zearing, Surgeon 57th Ill. Infantry.
David O. Gamble, Major, 60th Ill. Infantry.
Abraham Hartzell, Chaplain, 60th Ill. Infantry.
W. L. Merriman, Major, 12th Ill. Infntry.
E. P. Burton, Surgeon, 12th Ill. Infantry.
I. D. Davis, Lieut. Col. 52nd Ill. Infantry.
G. W. Rohr, Surgeon, 52nd Ill. Infantry.
Samuel Mahon, Major, 7th Iowa Infantry.
J. Everingham, Surgeon, 7th Iowa Infantry.
Roger Martin, Lieut. Col. 66th Ind. Vols.
Chas. W. Gurney, Lieut. Col. 2nd Iowa Infantry.
R. N. Adams, Col. 81st Ohio Infantry Vols.
W. H. Hill, Lieut. Col. 81st Ohio Vol. Infantry.
Wm. Clay Henry, Major, 81st Ohio Vol. Infantry.
W. C. Jacobs, Surgeon, 81st Ohio Vol. Infantry.
Chas. W. Jackson, Lieut. Col. 18th Wis. Infantry.
James P. Millard, Major, 18th Wis. Vol. Infantry.
J. W. Leutze, Major, 48th Ind. Vol. Infantry.
S. Laning, Surgeon, 48th Ind. Vol. Infantry.
James Insmonger, Lieut. Col. 63rd Ill. Infantry.
Henry Vanseller, Lieut. Col. 12th Ill. Infantry.
Thos. A. McNaught, Lieut. Col. 59th Ind. Infantry.

Note: Presented by Gen'l Rowett on the eve
of the departure of the "Army of the Tennessee"
from Washington, D. C., for Louisville, Ky.

L. H. EVERTS.

Endorsement on Field Officers Testimonial.

Headquarters 4th Div. 15 A. C.

Washington, D. C. June 3rd, 1865.

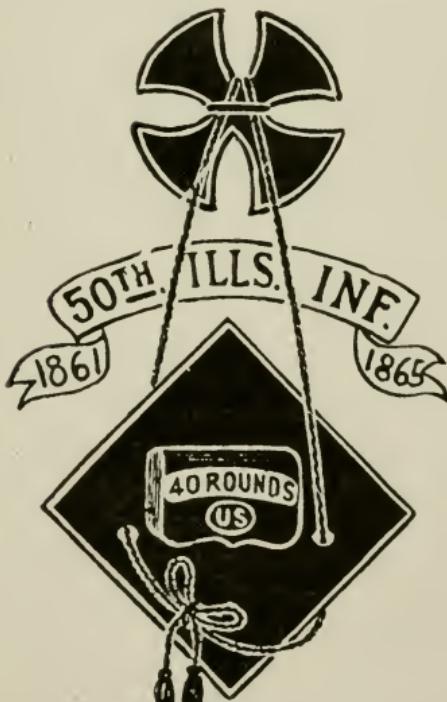
"Respectfully forwarded and earnestly re-
commended; an officer able, faithful and gallant
in every way deserving the promotion."

(Signed) JNO. M. CORSE, Maj. Gen' Com'd'g.

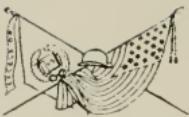
Headquarters 15th Army Corps,
Washington, D. C., June 3rd, 1865.
"Approved, and respectfully forwarded."
(Signed) W. B. HAZEN,
Maj. Gen'l Com'd'g.

Headquarters Army of the Tenn.
Washington, D. C., June 5th, 1865.
"Respectfully forwarded and recommended."
(Signed) JOHN A. LOGAN,
Maj. Gen'l Com'd'g.

Promotion received.



EADGE OF THE REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION
Colors of the Divisions: 1st, Red; 2nd, White;
3rd, Blue; 4th, Yellow.



OLD GLORY AND
OUR PRIZE DRILL BANNER

MILITARY TOURNAMENT

In closing these memoirs, I will refer to but one matter which concludes my personal activities during four years of service in the field. There were three brigades in our Division at the close of the war; the 1st, 2d and 3d, and included a number of regiments from Indiana and Ohio. Many members of these regiments were but a few hours journey from their homes. It will be readily understood how these became more homesick and restless than the Illinois and Iowa soldiers, and they chafed over the delay in sending them home. Their view-point was that the authorities were dilatory in relieving them from the intense heat of this Southern climate, now that the war was over. They heard rumors that the army of the Potomac had been mustered out and this added to their bitter complaints. In some instances letters from their homes were received announcing a death or serious illness of some loved one and begging them to come home, if only for two or three days. If they applied for a short leave, company com-

manders would side step the application with the remark that official documents for their final discharge were daily expected. The result was, that in sheer desperation, a few men began to slip across the river into Indiana and Ohio, but always with the avowed purpose of returning for the "muster out." It appears that Division Commanders held a consultation over this danger and how best to meet it. These soldiers were actually deserters, and yet, they could not so report them after years of loyal service, and besides, they were not facing an enemy now. Their enlistment was for three years or during the war, and the war was over; they had fulfilled their pledge to the Government. Our Generals were worried, for the breaking away might increase and how were they to check it. At this crucial point, General Corse rode over from his residence, situated some distance from headquarters, and explained the situation to me. He asked if any of our men had disappeared, and if so, how reported by Company Commanders. His anxiety was manifest when he stated that if any of his men deserted, it would disgrace himself and the Division. I realized that the whole trouble resulted from the inertness of the men; they were loafing in quarters or getting passes to the city and spending their time and money in ways discreditable and from which their good sense demanded a speedy severance. Occupation and interest would prevent insubor-

dination, and I at once sent a note to brigade commanders requesting their presence at Headquarters that evening. I explained to them the General's anxiety and to what I attributed the nervous restlessness of the men. I said in substance: "Gentlemen, we must give our bored men something to think about, something that will awaken an interest and call for both mental and physical action. Now, my plan is—if it meets with your approval—to hold a military tournament two weeks from this date, in order to celebrate the event July 4th. The program to consist of a competitive, regimental drill, for a prize flag, to be manufactured especially for the occasion. You are to start these drills at once and continue them for two weeks when you will select the regiments which are to represent your respective commands in competition for the flag. My idea is to appoint a committee of three officers to visit Cincinnati for the purpose of securing the finest thing in the flag line that can be made, and also to assist in designing the same." To my great relief these officers were unanimous in their approval and assured me of their hearty support. The following morning I issued a general order to be read by the Commanding Officer of each regiment at dress parade, announcing the details of the proposed "Military Tournament" and "prize drill" to be held July 4th at Woodlawn, as a triumphal finale to the grand "Old Division" which had

never experienced defeat during its four years of warfare. I withheld this order until General Corse came over in the afternoon, when the program as outlined was submitted. He was amazed at the progress made and perused the order, as drafted, with some hesitation. I divined the reason for this, and it was the only one that could cause doubt; would the officers and men, on the eve of release from service, stand for a two weeks drastic drill and acquit themselves in such a manner as to honor the Division and close its record in a blaze of glory? That was the question, and I was willing to take the chance and my enthusiasm won the day. He said, "You seem to have made the plunge already, and may as well swim across now that you have entered the stream, but I hope no serious snags will be encountered." I rushed the orders to brigade commanders and the same evening paid them a visit and discussed the details of procedure. I informed them that the General had thrown the responsibility upon my shoulders, but with their cooperation I was confident we could pull a "big show." I found them "wide awake" to the possibilities of the proposition and we at once selected competent officers to design the flag and contract for its production. I met the committee and suggested a flag of yellow silk, light in weight, but of finest quality, with a perfect cartridge box woven into the center, thus representing our divi-

sion badge and colors—yellow standing for gold, and surmounted by a gold washed eagle with wings poised for flight. This design was adopted and the flag produced at a cost of about \$300.00. It was with some anxiety that I pushed this scheme to the front for I plainly saw that it would be a pronounced success or a humiliating failure, and I immediately inaugurated measures to popularize the coming tournament. The press of the city gave very interesting details of the proposed "fete" and by the time the first week had passed, the drills were almost the sole topic as soldiers "met by chance." The willingness and enthusiasm of those engaged in drilling for the contest was the surprise feature thus far. Morning and until late afternoons the fields were covered with marching regiments and sharp commands of the drill master rang out continuously. Three days before that of the all-important event the flag was received and publically displayed at Headquarters, attracting much attention and greatly increasing the zeal of the contenders. Competing regiments were announced by brigade commanders and the boys were polishing shoes, burnishing buttons, brushing up uniforms and seeing that their badges were at the right angle on every cap. I detailed one company as flag escort and they reported, white gloved, and as steady as though trained at West Point.

The day of the all important event, the last in which these veterans were to take part, was without a flaw; not a cloud to hide the azure blue above, and all nature seemed to smile approval. Placing the flag and color guard between two platoons and headed by our Division band, I marched the escort down the race track in front of the grand stand crowded with citizens and surrounded by thousands of soldiers occupying every point of vantage for viewing the final pageant of the Civil war. The flag was suspended from the judges' stand and the cheers which greeted us as we moved down the broad track were such as to amply repay us for all our labor and anxiety. Judges of the competition included General Logan, General Hazen and a West Point Colonel, whose name I fail to remember. I had planned all details governing this performance and had watched the preparatory drills, therefore, was able to arrange the order of drill so that each succeeding regiment would, in some degree, prove superior to its predecessor and this gave the assembled throngs an opportunity to express their judgment as to the merits of the competing regiments. I knew that the 50th Ill. Vols. were matchless, in fact, being a fair judge of a trained soldier I had no hesitation in pronouncing this regiment of four hundred men the most perfectly drilled of any body of troops I had ever seen, not excepting Elsworth's Chicago

Zouaves. Each regiment was required to appear, first, on the track in front of the judges for the manual of arms and abridged company evolutions, then to proceed to the spacious lawn for more extended formations and skirmish drill. The first regiment to appear did some fine work and was a surprise to all of us and the crowds gave audible evidence of their appreciation. The second regiment was equally cheered, and the judges declared that it was going to be a difficult matter to pick the winner, pointing to the fact that the audience failed to select a favorite. I turned to the judges, saying, "there is one more regiment to appear and possibly it may help you to a popular decision;" then the 50th Ill. Vols. headed by its drum corps, entered the gate and moved as one man down in front of the judges' stand, but before it reached its position the great throngs began cheering and continued until the close of this wonderful exhibition, and when it double-quicked from the field back to the stand, halted and saluted the judges, occupants of the main stand arose enmasse and from citizens and soldiers a thunderous applause greeted gallant Col. Hanna's 50th Ill. Vols., winner of the prize flag of the 4th Division, 15th A. C. and the congratulation of the judges. The regular army Colonel informed me that he was a West Point man and supposed the drills and discipline of the cadets were the acme of perfection, but this regiment of volunteers sur-

passed anything he had ever seen or heard of. It was a happy day for myself and I received many congratulations as I marched my escort back to Headquarters. Thus closed the last scene of the Rebellion; the curtain was rung down; no more "absentees without leave" and during the latter part of this month of July, the boys were enjoying "Home Sweet Home," trying to forget all their trials and hardships. As for myself, I had tried to do my duty under every test, and the appended testimonials from my superiors render a verdict very dear to me. My duties ended by sending final reports to the Adjutant General at Washington.

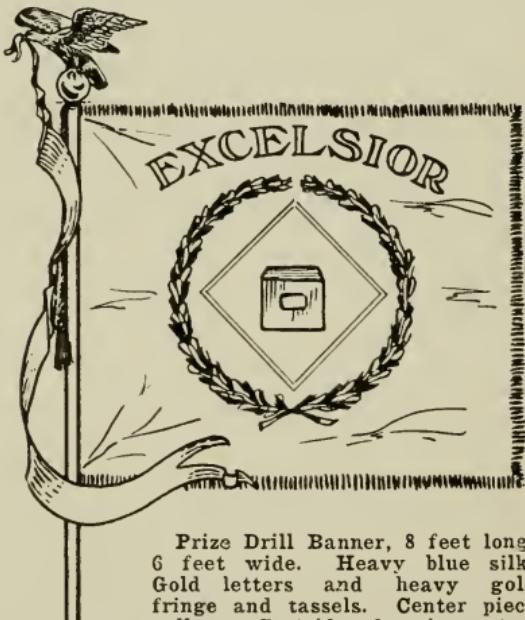
I then joined some friends on a visit to Mammoth Cave, Ky., and upon my return, the last armed soldier of my Division had disappeared. I found my colored attendant alone in the room I had occupied as an office, keeping guard over my personal belongings. The utter loneliness of the place was appalling, and I resolved to start North at once, but how about this mulatto? He seemed greatly depressed and after a moment's thought, I startled him with the question, "William, how would you like to go to Chicago with me?" He almost fainted at the suggestion, but quickly revived when I told him to get ready. He became a prosperous barber in that city.

Shortly after my arrival at Geneva, I received my commission as Brevet Major in the U. S.

Army, ranking as such from March, 1865. This was simply a recognition of meritorious service during the war, the promotion being made by President Johnson.

General Corse was assigned to Post duty at St. Paul, Minn. and desired that I remain in service, but I declined his kind advice and was mustered out September 18, 1865, having served four years and one month.

L. H. EVERTS,
A. A. G. 4th Div. 15th A. C.



Prize Drill Banner, 8 feet long, 6 feet wide. Heavy blue silk. Gold letters and heavy gold fringe and tassels. Center piece yellow. Cartridge box in center. Staff 9 feet long, a pennant 10 feet long inscribed "Awarded 50th Ills. V. V. Infantry July 3d, 1865." Badge of the 4th Div. of the 15th Army Corps.

OUR PRIZE DRILL BANNER

As we look upon this banner,
Our prize of silk and gold,
We dream of days back yonder,
And our comrades true and bold.

We dream of the time when we left home,
To go to the field of strife,
We dream of those who then were boys,
Each offering his country his life.

We dream of the days together,
We spent in the soldiers camp,
We dream of all kinds of weather,
And the life that together we spent.

We dream of the skirmish and battle,
The duties of camp life performed,
The wounded and musketry rattle,
The blare of the bugle and drum.

We dream of the war's final ending,
That peace once again is restored,
And we on our way homeward rejoicing,
Are happy and ever so glad.

We dream of that 3rd of July,
That hot and beautiful day,
The efforts we made to capture it,
And the cheers as we bore it away.

We dream of our coming home,
Of bidding our comrades good-bye,
And hoping as time passed on,
We'd remember each other for aye.

This Banner we wished to preserve it,
To fulfill our dreams of the past,
Our Comrades coming to see us,
Are surely remembered at last.

C. F. HUBERT, 50th Ill. Inft. Dec. 1915

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